



Docket No. 49584 (70904)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT:** MIZUTANI, et al. **EXAMINER:** V. Manoharan  
**SERIAL NO.** 09/506,713 **GROUP:** 1764  
**FILED:** February 18, 2000  
**FOR:** PERFORATED TRAY WITHOUT DOWNCOMER,  
PERFORATED TRAY TOWER WITHOUT DOWNCOMER  
AND METHOD OF DISTILLATION

**RECEIVED**  
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**TC 1700**

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 12/1, 2003.

By: Gileen M Woodley

\*\*\*\*\*  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

The following is in response to the Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, in the above referenced application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.